



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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BISHOP: EDUCATION SHORTFALL COSTS 1ST DISTRICT TAXPAYERS OVER \$33 MILLION

*Congressman Releases Report with District-by-District Shortfall by Bush Administration for
No Child Left Behind, IDEA; Local Taxpayers Once Again Forced to Cover the Bill*

Mt. SINAI—Congressman Tim Bishop released a report today which shows that the problem of unfunded federal mandates on local taxpayers is only getting worse. According to a report compiled by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) at Bishop's request, the federal government will underfund schools in the 1st Congressional District by an estimated \$33 million this year alone, which is up from \$28 million last year.

"This report demonstrates that funding our education commitments is not a priority for this Administration," Bishop said. "This promise gap results in more unfunded mandates on our schools and higher property taxes for Long Islanders."

Bishop was joined at the event at the Mt. Sinai Elementary School by Mt. Sinai schools Superintendent Jon Van Eyk, who talked about the impact this shortfall has on local school districts. He was also joined by Mitchell Wolman, President, Mt. Sinai Teachers Association. Mt. Sinai alone is shortchanged by nearly \$590,000.

Van Eyk noted that over the life of these programs, the federal unfunded mandates have cost average taxpayers several thousand a piece, and that, "I support Congressman Bishop's push to have the federal government meet its responsibilities. The additional funding he is fighting for would make a difference for students and taxpayers."

Currently the government funds special education at just 18 percent of total expenses, in spite of a commitment to fund the special education programming at 40 percent. This shortfall costs schools in the 1st Congressional District over \$28,233,300, up from \$23,947,000 last year. Special education is funded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The picture looks even worse if President Bush's Fiscal Year 2007 budget were enacted, and the federal share would fall to 17 percent, \$14.5 billion short of full funding nationwide.

The failure to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act cost local school districts an additional \$4,815,100, up over \$800,000 since last year's budget. The President's proposed 2007 budget would worsen the situation, falling more than \$15 billion short nationally of promised funding.

Because special education funding and the No Child Left Behind Act are both mandates from the federal government, local school districts must make up the funding difference themselves. As a result, districts are forced to choose between higher taxes or reduced spending in other areas. Bishop, a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, has co-sponsored

legislation to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act as well as separate legislation for the federal government to live up to its commitment to fully fund IDEA.

“The federal government must live up to its promise to fully fund these programs, which would provide immediate tax relief to hardworking families and continuing the exceptional education provided by our local schools,” Bishop said.

Below are the funding shortfall totals for each school district in the 1st Congressional District:

School District Name	Total Funding Gap
Dollars Rounded to Nearest Thousand, All Numbers May Not Add Up	
AMAGANSETT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRIC	\$ 53,400.00
BAYPORT-BLUE POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL	\$ 529,200.00
BRIDGEHAMPTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DIST	\$ 51,200.00
CTR MORICHES UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTR	\$ 335,000.00
EAST HAMPTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTR	\$ 387,700.00
EAST MORICHES UNION FREE SCHOOL DIST	\$ 209,500.00
EAST QUOGUE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRI	\$ 185,600.00
EASTPORT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 197,800.00
EASTPORT-SOUTH MANOR CENTRAL HIGH SC	\$ 263,600.00
FIRE ISLAND UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRI	\$ 41,100.00
FISHERS ISLAND UNION FREE SCHOOL DIS	\$ 12,200.00
GREENPORT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 165,500.00
HAMPTON BAYS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTR	\$ 511,700.00
KINGS PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 1,051,300.00
LONGWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 3,037,900.00
MATTITUCK-CUTCHOGUE UNION FREE SCHOO	\$ 404,400.00
MIDDLE COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRI	\$ 3,107,700.00
MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTR	\$ 798,400.00
MONTAUK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 164,700.00
MOUNT SINAI UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRI	\$ 589,900.00
NEW SUFFOLK COMN SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 8,300.00
OYSTERPONDS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRI	\$ 41,000.00
PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL	\$ 2,440,700.00
PORT JEFFERSON UNION FREE SCHOOL DIS	\$ 272,100.00
QUOGUE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 45,900.00
REMSENBURG-SPEONK UNION FREE SCHOOL	\$ 75,700.00
RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 1,756,200.00
ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRI	\$ 962,200.00
SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 3,440,600.00
SAG HARBOR UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRIC	\$ 208,700.00
SAGAPONACK COMN SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 10,500.00
SHELTER ISLAND UNION FREE SCHOOL DIS	\$ 84,600.00
SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL	\$ 557,200.00
SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 2,208,500.00
SOUTH COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRIC	\$ 1,672,600.00
SOUTH MANOR UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRI	\$ 226,400.00
SOUTHAMPTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRI	\$ 472,800.00
SOUTHOLD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 207,500.00
SPRINGS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 231,800.00
THREE VILLAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRIC	\$ 1,719,600.00
TUCKAHOE COMN SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 101,300.00
WAINSCOTT COMN SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 222,000.00

WESTHAMPTON BEACH UNION FREE SCHOOL \$ 264,900.00

WILLIAM FLOYD UNION FREE SCHOOL DIST \$ 3,898,300.00

TOTALS \$ 33,048,400.00



L to R - Mitchell Wolman, Superintendent Jon Van Eyk, Rep. Tim Bishop

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